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after the comparative *longius*. But that violates a fundamental principle of language. An ablative in the subordinate clause can not modify a comparative in the principal clause.

Abest quān, preceded by *multum*, *paulum*, *nihil*, *nōn longius*, etc, is frequently used to show that something is, or is not, far from the fact or from accomplishment. It is the idea of separation, or falling short of the fact, in *abest* that gives rise to the use of the *quān*. Axiomatically, a word or phrase can not spend all its force on some particular word in a sentence and yet modify still another. If, therefore, *proximā nocte* could be, and were, used to modify the idea in *longius ab*, there would be nothing left in the sentence to make necessary or possible the use of *quān*. The *quān*-clause contains a conception of the thing that does, or does not, fall short of the truth or the accomplishment. The *longius*, *paulum*, etc, lengthens, or shortens, the separation indicated by *ab* in *abest*, but does not, and can not, have any reference whatever to time. So the words, *neque longius abesse quān*, etc, mean, "and it is not far from a certainty [it is almost sure] that Sabinus will lead out his army the following night".

But to confirm our argument, compare, in Caes. *B G V 2*: *Caesar nāvēs invenit instructās, neque multum abesse ab eō quān paucīs diēbus dēdūcī possiūt*. This sentence contains the same idioms as the other. But the meaning evidently is that Caesar found his ships already built and that they were not far from being ready to be launched in a few days.

Compare also these: *Paulum abfuit quān Vārum interficeret*: Caes. *B C II 35*; *nihil abest quān sim miserrimus*: Cic. *Att XI 15*; *haud multum abfuit quān Ismēnias interficeretur*: Liv. *XLII 44*. And Ennius says:

Sed eōs [deōs] nōn cūrāre opīnor, quid agat hūmānum genus, Nam sī cūrānt bene bonīs sit, malē, malīs, quod nunc abest. "The gods do not concern themselves I reckon about what mankind does, for, if they did, it would go justly with the just and badly with the bad, which is far from the fact".

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The Fourth Meeting of The New York Latin Club

Between sixty and seventy ladies and gentlemen, representing nearly all the secondary schools and other Latin interests in and around New York City, were present at the Fourth Luncheon of The New York Latin Club, at the Hotel Albert, Saturday, Dec 21, 1901, to hear the address of Professor W G Hale. Despite the conflict with the last Saturday before Christmas, the attendance was the largest thus far in the history of the Club. Eleven new names were added to the roll of members, and several schools not before represented were represented at this meeting: notably, The Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute, Packer Collegiate Institute, and The Blake Preparatory School of New York.

Professor Hale discussed at some length his theory of the origin of the Latin subjunctive relations, closing his address with a very satisfactory criticism of some of the heterodoxies advanced in a recent book on The Teaching of Latin and Greek in The Secondary School (Bennett and Bristol: Longmans, Green & Co: 1900: N Y). THE LEAFLET was made the recipient of a graceful compliment from the speaker, and the recent articles by Dr Riess were especially mentioned.

Professor Hale was the guest of The Brooklyn High School Association at its reception in the Pouch Gallery in the evening. Here again, in another address, Professor Hale delighted everybody by his gracious manner and witty speech. In the course of his remarks he paid a graceful compliment to Messrs Dixon and Thibbett of Erasmus Hall High School, two of his former pupils who are now assisting him in reading the proof of his new Latin Grammar, which is now in the press of Ginn & Company.

Professor Hale's visit will be long remembered as one of the most profitable events in the history of The New York Latin Club.

The Scholarship Fund

In answer to inquiries THE LATIN LEAFLET desires to state that over four thousand dollars has been subscribed on the five-annual-payments plan. Over one thousand dollars has been paid in.

Personal acknowledgement of all money received this school year will be made in No 38, Jan 27, of THE LEAFLET. In the next issue, No 36, will appear a complete list of our SCHOLARSHIP and LEAFLET PATRONS.